

The Town Crier

A Newsletter from the Town of Warrenton

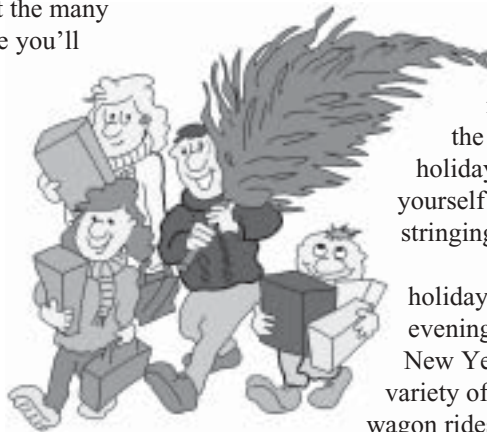


Making Holiday Memories in Warrenton

Does the smell of cinnamon or fresh cut pine bring memories of holidays past? Sometimes it's the smallest, most spontaneous moments that create lasting memories and give the holidays special meaning.

Festive activities provide the perfect relief from the frantic pace of holiday preparations. For a change of scene from the crowded malls, visit the many shops throughout Warrenton, where you'll be offered service with a smile and friendly assistance in finding the perfect gift. Bring the entire family to enjoy the special holiday events such as horse drawn wagon rides, refreshments and, of course, the traditional parade signaling "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

Children make the holidays a magical time; enthrall yours with a local performance of "The Nutcracker," a visit to Santa Claus at Gum Drop Square or simply caroling through the neighborhood. Better yet, go caroling at a local retirement home – there is no age restriction on singing "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" and you won't find a more appreciative audience.



'Tis the month before Christmas and all through Old Town Events have been planned and cheer will abound.

*Main Street's aglow with festive decorations,
And each storefront's brightened by playful creations.
Ribbons and wreaths have been hung with great care,
Leading the way right to Gum Drop Square.*

What's that? Oh, that's not how the story goes? If you'd like to hear an accurate rendition of "The Night Before Christmas," the public library offers special readings of the holiday classics. Take the children...or go by yourself...and enjoy a much deserved break from stringing garland and hanging mistletoe.

Looking for the perfect ending to the holiday festivities? Try First Night Warrenton for an evening of entertainment for the entire family. Each New Year's Eve, this alcohol-free event offers a variety of entertainers for all ages plus horse-drawn wagon rides and refreshments. Be sure to stay until midnight to sing in the new year on the Old Courthouse steps!

Whether it's a family outing to find the perfect tree, or greeting Santa at the annual parade down Main Street, creating holiday traditions is surprisingly simple. Just take advantage of all Warrenton has to offer this year. ■



Warrenton Holiday Calendar



Gum Drop Square – Open weekends December 6 - 21. A magical place that appears in Old Town Warrenton only during the holidays. Bring your children and create a memory to last a lifetime! Decorated Christmas trees and toy displays welcome children to this winter wonderland. Santa is waiting to hear all those special requests and his elves will help youngsters select presents for relatives and friends – only children are allowed in the 'Secret Children's Shop' so no peeking Mom and Dad! Open Fridays: 6 to 9 PM., Saturdays: 12:30 to 2:30 PM and Sundays: 1 to 3 PM.

Santa's Arrival – Friday, December 6. Join your friends and neighbors in welcoming Santa Claus to Town in a horse drawn carriage. An enchanting light display accompanies Santa on his trip down Main Street. Children and adults will enjoy the hay rides, entertainment and refreshments that

celebrate the start of holiday activities in Old Town Warrenton. Activities begin at 6 PM and stores will remain open until 9 PM.

Continued on page 2.



Town Wins Urban Forestry Award

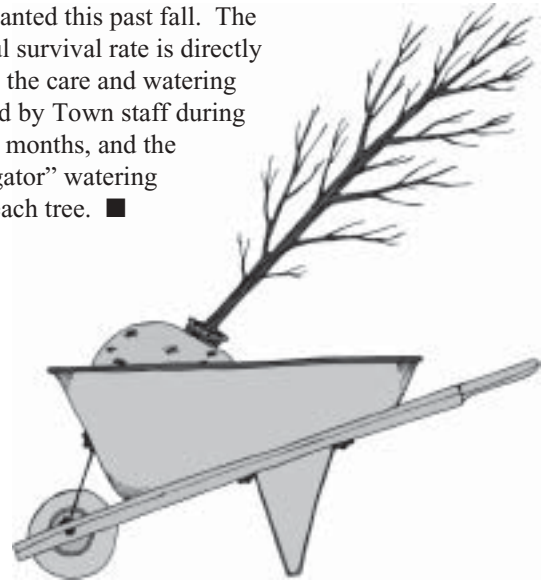
On November 13, 2002 the Town of Warrenton was recognized by the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District as the winner of the 2002 Urban Forest Award. The award is for communities that display notable efforts to promote the planting, maintenance and nurturing of trees in an urban environment.

This is the second time in six years that the town has received the Urban Forestry Award.

This past year the Town of Warrenton undertook an aggressive effort to enhance the appearance of the community with the planting of over 135 trees in 10 locations around the Town. The trees were planted primarily in the medians and right of ways along the old by-pass, Route 211, Route 17, Alexandria Pike, Main Street and the new parking lot off 5th Street.

Although many trees were planted during the summer drought, only two of the 135 trees did not survive. They

were replanted this past fall. The successful survival rate is directly related to the care and watering performed by Town staff during those dry months, and the use of "gator" watering bags on each tree. ■



WARRENTON HOLIDAY CALENDER, *continued from front page.*

Christmas Parade – Saturday, December 7. The annual Christmas parade in Old Town Warrenton is a holiday tradition you won't want to miss. Marching bands, floats and of course, Santa and his elves lead the way to Gum Drop Square. The parade begins at 10 AM.

Old Town Friday – December 13. Tired of the crowded malls and the frantic pace of holiday preparations? Bring the family to Old Town Warrenton and enjoy a special holiday treat: horse drawn hay wagon rides, entertainment and refreshments. Activities will begin at 6 PM and stores will remain open until 9 PM.

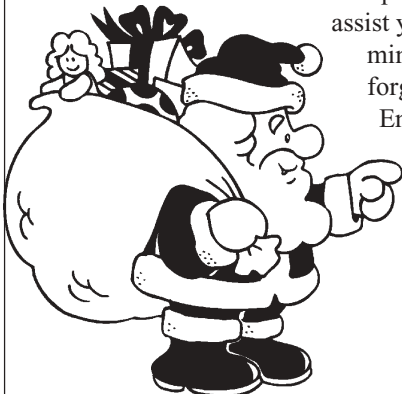


Warrenton Merchants' Open House –

Friday, December 22. If you haven't found the perfect gift and are starting to panic, don't worry; come to Old Town Warrenton for our merchants' open house.

The shop owners will be happy to assist you in finding your last minute gifts...and don't forget the stocking stuffers!

Enjoy the refreshments and holiday window displays. Shops will remain open until 9 PM.



First Night Warrenton – Tuesday, December 31. Ring in the new year at the annual First Night Warrenton; an alcohol-free family oriented event with over 30 performing acts plus food and fun. Activities begin at 6 PM and end with a candle lighting at midnight. Ticket Information: (540) 349-0010.

For additional information about activities in Warrenton and Fauquier County, call the Warrenton - Fauquier Visitor Center: (540) 347-4414 or go to:

www.fauquiertourism.com and www.historicwarrenton.org. ■

'Tis the Season to Pay Taxes

The Town Of Warrenton's Finance Department would like to remind all Town citizens that 2002 Personal Property Taxes and the second half of 2002 Real Estate Taxes are due December 16, 2002. If you have not received your Real Estate Tax bill and your mortgage company is not responsible for payment, please call (540) 347-1101 or e-mail staff@ci.warrenton.va.us.

All Personal Property and Real Estate Taxes may be paid at the Town's secure website, www.townofwarrenton.com, using your bank account, Visa or MasterCard. No convenience fee or service charge is added. ■

Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow!

While fall is just settling in, winter is not far behind. And that means it's not too soon to be thinking about snow removal.

While Town workers are tasked with removal of snow from the streets of town, the Code of the Town of Warrenton clearly establishes certain responsibilities of homeowners and businesses in dealing with snow in their own immediate vicinity. This is for the safety of all.

Please take a moment to refresh yourselves on the Town's policies regarding the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks and snow emergency routes.

From the Code of the Town of Warrenton:

Section 14.5 "Disposition of Snow, Ice, etc."

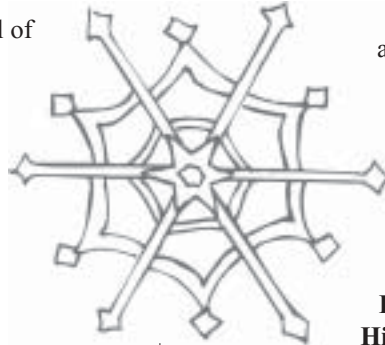
A. It shall be the duty of the occupant of any house and lot which abuts upon a paved sidewalk or a footway of stone, brick or wood to have all snow removed from such sidewalk or footway within six (6) hours after the same shall have ceased falling, unless such snow shall have fallen during the night or on a Sunday, in which case it shall be removed by 12:00 noon of the day following. The same requirements shall exist with respect to ice or sleet on sidewalks or footways; except, that ice or sleet, when it cannot be removed without injury to the sidewalk or footway, shall be covered, within the period of time as above specified, with sand, ashes or some other substance which will render it safe for travel on foot.

Whenever any house or lot is unoccupied, it shall be the duty of the owner, or of the agent of the owner, to have the snow or ice removed from his sidewalk or footway in the same manner as set forth above for occupant of properties. Each violation of this subsection shall be a class 4 misdemeanor, and every six (6) hours that such snow or ice is

allowed to remain in violation of this subsection shall constitute a separate offence.

B. It shall be unlawful for any person removing ice or snow from his premises to place or deposit such ice or snow upon any street or sidewalk.

Snow Emergency Routes



The Streets listed below are designated as Snow Emergency Routes and it is unlawful for any person or business to park a vehicle on any of these streets during snow emergencies.

Alexandria Pike, Blackwell Road, Broadview Avenue, Culpeper Street, East and West Shirley Avenue, Falmouth Street, Frost Avenue, Lee Highway, Main Street, Waterloo Street, Winchester Street

Vehicles that are stalled, stuck, parked or abandoned on any of these streets during a snow emergency may be removed by the police at the owners expense.

Please help us as we attempt to make our Town streets safe and clean. Any questions regarding Town Ordinances on snow emergency may call Public Works at (540) 347-1858. ■

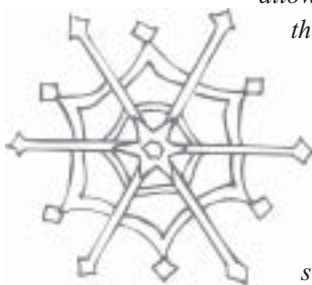


Free Trash Bags, Anyone?

If you're a Town resident, it's time again to pick up your ration of free trash and recycling bags. If you're new to the Town of Warrenton, the Town gives out one free box of one hundred trash bags to each resident per year. Also the Town furnishes residents and businesses with blue bags for recycling. But you have to come and get them!

You can pick up your bags at the Public Works facility at 360 Falmouth Street, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Public Works also will be open on Saturday, January 11, 2003 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM for those who can't make it in during regular hours.

Identification will be required in order to pick up your bags. You'll need something with your name and address on it (Drivers License, Utility Bill or Tax Receipt, etc.). ■



Preventing Frozen Pipes

Water pipes will usually be more susceptible to freezing when the outdoor air temperature is below freezing for more than a few days. Special attention should be given when the air temperature does not rise above zero degrees Fahrenheit during the daytime hours. The following prevention tips should help in avoiding frozen pipes in your home or business.

1) Find the main water shut-off valve as it enters your home or business and tag it. This will be helpful in an emergency. Identify the type of valve you have (ball or gate) and learn how to turn it off and on.

2) Heat basements where water pipes are located.

3) Insulate water pipes that are against outside walls.

4) Close and winterize windows near water pipes.

5) Seal any openings or cracks which allow cold outside air near water pipes.

6) Expose pipes that are isolated from the house heat or boxed-in against a cold outside wall.



How to thaw frozen pipes.

1. Open all faucets. One or more pipes may not be completely frozen, and even a small water flow might thaw the obstruction.

2. If that fails, use a hair dryer to heat the pipe where you suspect the freeze has occurred. Propane torches are dangerous and can cause fires.

3. If you have a basement, locate the spot where the water pipe enters your home. See if this pipe passes through a non-insulated area such as the "ribbon plate" right above the walls. Apply heat to any suspect area.

4. If you have a crawl space, look for any area where cold air can enter. Apply heat to all sections of pipes located in this area.

If all else fails, the Town's water meter may be frozen and in need of attention. Call the Public Utilities Department at (540) 347-1101 during the day or (540) 347-3300 after hours and a technician will be dispatched. ■

Holiday Refuse Collection Schedule

Christmas, Wed., December 25

Monday, 12/23/02 – Regular refuse collection

Tuesday, 12/24/02 – Regular refuse collection

Wednesday, 12/25/02 – Holiday; no recycling collection (blue bags rescheduled for Thursday)

Thursday, 12/26/02 – Regular refuse plus recycling collections (blue bags, limited cardboard & news paper due to holiday staffing)

Friday, 12/27/02 – Regular refuse collection

New Years Day, Wed., January 1

Monday, 12/30/02 – Regular refuse collection

Tuesday, 12/31/02 – Regular refuse collection

Wednesday, 1/1/03 – Holiday; no recycling collection (rescheduled for Thursday)

Thursday, 1/2/03 – Regular refuse plus recycling collections (blue bags, cardboard & news paper)

Friday, 1/3/03 – Regular refuse collection

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Mon., January 20

Monday, 1/20/03 – Holiday; no refuse collection

Tuesday, 1/21/03 – Monday's regular refuse collection

Wednesday, 1/22/03 – Tuesday's regular collection plus all recycling collections

Thursday, 1/23/03 – Regular refuse collection

Friday, 1/24/03 – Regular refuse collection

Throughout the holidays there will be a refuse truck available at the Public Works facility, at 360 Falmouth Street, for anyone wishing to dispose of any excess trash. ■

Christmas Tree Collection

You may not be finished with your holiday shopping yet, so what to do with that old Christmas tree when the big day has passed may be the farthest thing from your mind. But in case you like to plan ahead, the Town will provide a special Christmas tree pick-up Monday, January 6 and Tuesday, January 7, 2003.

Just place your tree at the street line by 8:00 AM on Monday, January 6. Sorry, Santa may be able to get down your chimney, but we can't. Trees not at the street line will not be picked up. ■

It's Leaf Collection Season!

Fall dropped it's usual load of leaves, and Town crews are ready for this year's leaf collection. Rake your leaves into piles near the road, and Town crews will take them away for you!

During the leaf collection, town employees rake the leaves and feed them into a large suction hose which shreds them and blows them into a large box on the back of a dump-truck. To make this process as easy as possible for the crews, please rake your leaves to the road edge or curbside for easy collection. Don't rake them into ditch lines or gutters, and please don't block drainage pipes with leaves. If at all possible, avoid piling leaves around parked cars, and park your car elsewhere on collection day.

Leaves must be to the road edge by 8:00 AM on the day of your collection in order to be taken away. Remember, this collection is only for leaves... no brush, rocks or trash please.

Below is the schedule of leaf collection, and a map to make it easy to see what day collectors will be on your street. If you have any questions, please call Public Works at (540) 347-1858. ■

Leaf Collection Schedule (December 2 - 13)

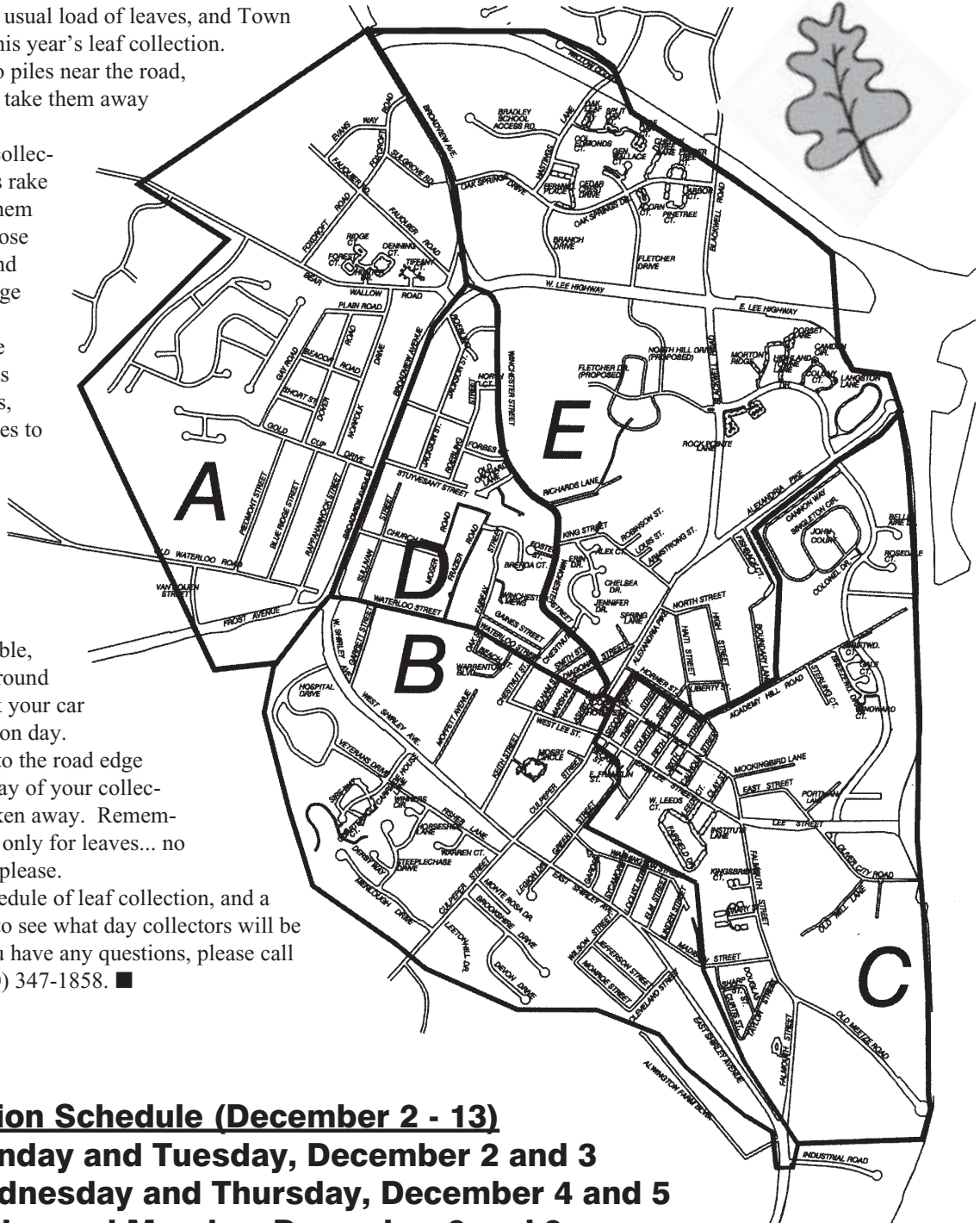
Area A – Monday and Tuesday, December 2 and 3

Area B – Wednesday and Thursday, December 4 and 5

Area C – Friday and Monday, December 6 and 9

Area D – Tuesday and Wednesday, December 10 and 11

Area E – Thursday and Friday, December 12 and 13





Town Office Hours and Telephone Numbers

Town Office Hours are 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

The area code is 540 unless otherwise noted.

Economic Development	347-6574
Finance Department	347-1102
Inspections	347-2405
Maintenance Shop	347-1858
Police Department	
Office of the Chief	347-1105
Police Station	347-1107
Non-emergency	347-1100
Emergency	911
Planning and Zoning	347-2405
Recycling	347-1858
Sewage Plant	347-1104
Town Hall	347-1101
Town Manager	347-4505
Utilities	347-6574
Water Bills	347-2678
Water Plant	347-1103
TTD/TTY	1-800-828-1120

**After Hours Water and Sewer Emergency
347-1100**

*Happy Holidays
From
Mayor George Fitch
and the Staff
of the
Town of Warrenton*

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A Newsletter From the

Town of Warrenton

P.O. Drawer 341

Warrenton, VA 20188-0341



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The Town Crier

is published by the Warrenton Town Council to inform
citizens of the major events which affect our government and
community.

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